

# 2019 Charles E. Shannon Community Safety Initiative

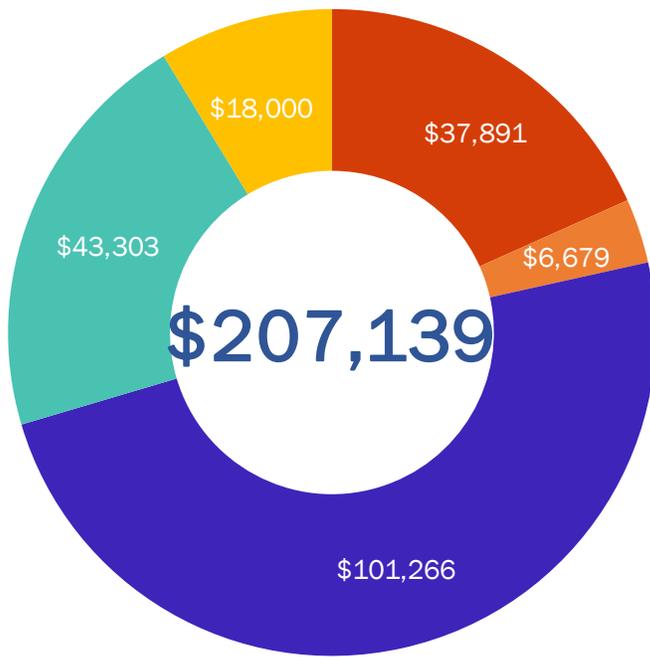
## FITCHBURG / GARDNER

### Funded Partners

Fitchburg Police Department, Gardner Police Department, Montachusett Opportunity Council, Mount Wachusett Community College and Shining Light Ministries, Inc.

Funded by the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security's Office of Grants and Research, the Charles E. Shannon Community Safety Initiative (Shannon) is modeled after the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's Comprehensive Gang Model. Shannon is a multi-sector approach used to address a community's gang and youth violence problem. Each community receiving Shannon funding demonstrates the presence of risk factors for youth and gang violence. Shannon participants must be between the ages of 10-24 years.

### FUNDING ALLOCATION



### 1696 YOUTH SERVED

**74%**  
LOW-RISK\*

Youth in danger of engaging in risky behavior or gang activity due to the presence of known risk factors such as exposure to gang affiliates in their home or community.

**24%**  
MODERATE-RISK\*

Youth exposed to the same risk factors as low-risk youth, as well as additional risk factors such as school failure, dropping out, truancy, substance abuse, and gang involvement.

**3%**  
HIGH-RISK\*

Youth who are perpetrators or victims of shooting or stabbing violence, and/or are known gang members.

\* % of youth assessed for level of risk.

### STRATEGIES & OUTCOMES

Positive Youth Development & Recreation\*



**438**

Participated in Positive Youth Development Programs

**308**

Developed Communication & Conflict Resolution Skills

**299**

Developed Leadership Skills

**100**

Engaged in Volunteer Work or Community Service

Education & Employment



**791**

Participated in Education Programs

**53**

Completed a Subsidized Employment Program

Suppression



**51**

Law Enforcement Supported Home Visits

**117**

Hot Spot Patrols Completed

Community Mobilization



**344**

People Attended Events, Meetings, & Presentations

**69**

Community Events, Meetings, & Presentations Held

\* Positive Youth Development refers to intentional efforts to provide opportunities for you to enhance their interest, skills, and abilities.

# Community Risk Factors

## MASSACHUSETTS

## FITCHBURG

## GARDNER

Total Population (2018 Estimate)	6,892,503	40,882	20,719
Population Lives in Poverty	10.0%	16.4%	15.0%
Unemployment Rate	2.94%	3.92%	3.72%
Total School Population (2018-2019)	1,007,005	6,602	2,844
Economically Disadvantaged	32.8%	61.9%	51.9%
High School Dropout Rate	1.9%	4.6%	2.5%

Sources: [www.census.gov/quickfacts](http://www.census.gov/quickfacts); [profiles.doe.mass.edu/](http://profiles.doe.mass.edu/); [www.mass.gov/lwd/economic-data/](http://www.mass.gov/lwd/economic-data/)

## Gang Activity in Fitchburg/Gardner

280

Active & Former  
Gang Members

45

Gang Members  
Under 25

In 2019, the Fitchburg Police Department (FPD) confirmed 280 active and former gang members from 25 different gangs in the region. Roughly, 16% of the gang members were under the age of 25. Gang activity in Fitchburg included weapons-related offenses, narcotics trafficking, violent offenses, and property crime. In 2019, FPD received 227 overdose calls, 24 suspected overdose related deaths, 143 calls regarding drug activity, 41 shots fired calls, and 15 weapons related calls.

## 5-Year Crime Trends for Young People Ages 10-24, 2015-2019

### MASSACHUSETTS SIMPLE ASSAULT

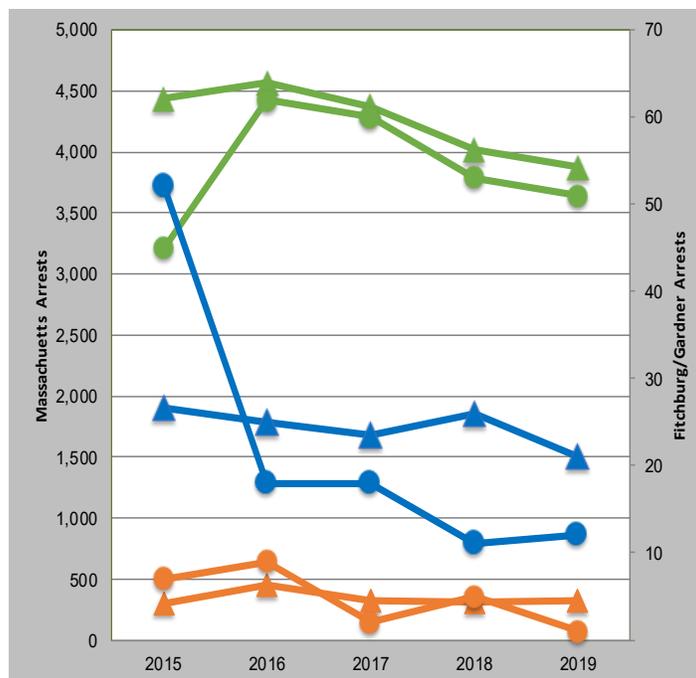
Simple assault arrests declined by 12.7% since 2015 (563 arrests)

### MASSACHUSETTS AGGRAVATED ASSAULT

Aggravated assault arrests declined by 20.6% since 2015 (391 arrests)

### MASSACHUSETTS ROBBERY

Robbery arrests increased by 10.1% since 2015 (30 arrests)



### FITCHBURG/GARDNER SIMPLE ASSAULT

Simple assault arrests increased by 13.3% since 2015 (6 arrests)

### FITCHBURG/GARDNER AGGRAVATED ASSAULT

Aggravated assault arrests declined by 76.9% since 2015 (40 arrests)

### FITCHBURG/GARDNER ROBBERY

Robbery arrests declined by 85.7% since 2015 (6 arrests)